

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 1919

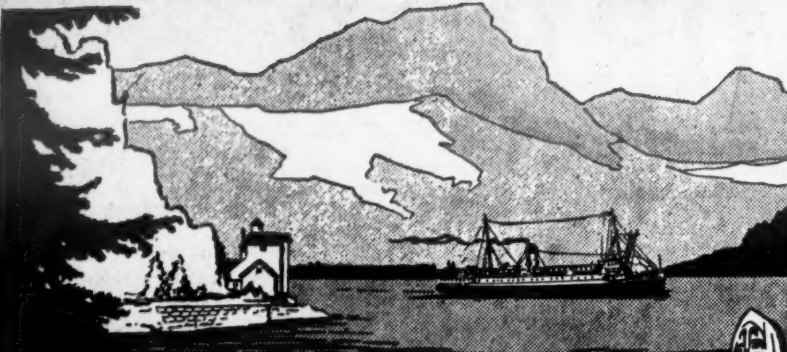
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Orders for any books reviewed in REEDY'S MIRROR will be promptly filled on receipt of purchase price with postage added when necessary. Address REEDY'S MIRROR, St. Louis, Mo.

THE MARSH MAIDEN AND OTHER PLAYS by Felix Gould. Boston: Four Seas Co.

Three short plays, "The Marsh Maiden," "The Stranger" and "In the Marshes," by the author of "The Jewels of Isis" published in The Contemporary Series.

CHRISTOPHER AND COLUMBUS by the author of "Elizabeth and Her German Garden," "The Pastor's Wife," etc. New York: Doubleday Page & Co., \$1.60.

More good fun based on common sense, from the pen of a clever woman. The characters are a pair of seventeen-year-old twins discovering the United States at the outbreak of the war. The children of a German father and an English mother, both dead, in the care of an uncle who ships them to this country, thus "passing the buck." Sparkling farce in which Americans fare little better than English bishops and German junkers in the matter of characterization. The uproarious troubles of Mr. Twist, who can't wash his hands of the enfants terrible.

THE NEW OPPORTUNITY OF THE CHURCH by Robert E. Speer. New York: Macmillan & Co., 60c.

The war has presented, among other reconstruction problems, such a problem with regard to the Christian churches. How the churches can be made more like one church and thus effective for old purposes through new methods. How the church must tackle and help solve economic and social problems. Mr. Speer, avoiding any definite program or method in his suggestions, describes this booklet as "a simple word of summons and assurance." He calls for larger Christian co-operation and seems to have much hope of the effectiveness of foreign missions in straightening out the world tangle.

THE NEW ELIZABETHANS by E. B. Osborn. New York: John Lane Co., \$4.

Critical and biographical memoirs of thirty young men who fell in the great war on the side of the Allies, each distinguished for some or other of the qualities which make men particularly beloved of men, all having that gay philosophy of life which characterized the young men of the Elizabethan era. Included are Alan Seeger, Donald Hankey, Richard Denny, Charles Solley, Charles Lister, R. Poulton Palmer, Colwyn and Roland Philipps, Harold Chapin, Anthony Wilding, Douglas Gillespie, Ivar Campbell, Brian Brooke, Julian and Billy Grenfell, William Noel Hodgson, T. Vade-Walpole, Harry Butters, Guy Drummond, Basil Hallam, Dixon Scott, Hugh and John Charlton, T. M. Kettle and Robert Stirling, with a photograph of each. This is the first volume of a proposed series.

THE BOUNDER by Arthur Hodges. New York: Houghton-Mifflin Co., \$1.60.

Bohemian New York life as centering in and radiating from a mediocre apartment house called the Kilkenny. The young people living in this house are thoroughly American in their tastes, amusements and ideas of freedom and entertain moreover a high conception of the fundamentals of moral law. There are fresh ideas in "The Bounder," humor, sentiment, but not sentimentality, some psychological conclusions and much entertainment.

THE EARTH TURNS SOUTH by Clement Wood. New York: E. P. Dutton Co., \$1.50.

Another volume of poetry by the author of "Glad of Earth." Those who have not read his first book and are unacquainted with his work can gather an idea of it from the fact that Mr. Wood was included by Vincent O'Sullivan in discussing *La Litterature Americaine* in the *Mercur de France* in the eight younger American poets forming an influential group. The present volume deals with the different phases of nature and the negro soul in its more primitive aspects.

NOWADAYS by Lord Dunsany. Boston: Four Seas Co.

Essay in laudation of the poet, his service to man in interpreting life. A prose poem. Of the Seven Arts series.

THE NEW MORNING by Alfred Noyes. New York: Frederick A. Stokes, \$1.35.

All Noyes' verse written since 1914, embodying his vigorous reaction to the stress of war times. Optimism and faith are the keywords—faith in the old verities, God, morality, idealism. Included in the volume are such stirring favorites as "The Avenue of the Allies," "Princeton, 1917," "Victory," "Cap'n Storm-Along," "The Vindictive," "Kilmeny," "The Phantom Fleet," "The Lost Battle," "On the Western Front," "Wireless" and many others.

FROM WAR TO PEACE by Herbert Quick. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Co., \$1.50.

A plea for a definite policy of reconstruction to result in a better democracy, higher rural morale, education based on life as it is, Americanization of society, a democratic attitude towards national defense, establishment of the disabled, employment of the industrially unsettled; freedom of speech for every man, freedom of the press, religious liberty and economic independence. A large program, for the attainment of which he advances original and courageous measures. Mr. Quick is positive in his ideas and states them unequivocally.

PROPHECY AND AUTHORITY by Kemper Fullerton, M. A. New York: Macmillan & Co., \$1.50.

Written to discuss the principles of Messianic prophecy in view of the recent revival of millennialist claims, and to open the question of the nature of the Bible as a principle of authority in Protestant theology. The author seeks to trace the way in which the methods of interpretation and the doctrine of Scripture affect each other, and to show how the scientific principles of interpretation adopted by the Reformers inevitably lead to the abandonment of the millennialist theory and the dogmatic view of Scripture. He holds that these results are at the same time religiously desirable. He asserts that the dogmatic theory of the infallibility of the Scriptures must be discarded; that predictive prophecy has been maintained only by a false principle of exegesis. The author is professor of Old Testament Language and Literature, Oberlin Graduate School of Theology, and has devoted many years of research to the present book.

PROBLEMS OF PEACE by Guglielmo Ferrero. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, \$1.50.

The distinguished European writer sends a message to America, reminding his readers that he "matured his mind" in America. Only by a thorough understanding of Europe's peace problem for the past hundred years can a true solution be had of the present difficulties, and so, in a series of studies or essays, he portrays some one or another phase of Europe's economic and governmental questions, from the Holy Alliance to the proposed League of Nations. He discusses the French revolution and the Austrian empire, the League and the peace of the dynasties (1815-1848), the revolution of 1848 and the surprising Germanic triumph, followed by the German peace and the Germanization of Europe. Needless to say, the style is most engaging.

ROSY by Louis Dodge. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, \$1.60.

In his fourth novel Louis Dodge has taken for his heroine a beautiful young woman of the Ozark mountains. He shows her seated in her cabin door with a shotgun across her knee, in contemptuous defiance of the representatives of the law who would take from under her protection a man who has broken prison parole in order to enlist in the army. From thence on events move swiftly in true Dodge fashion. Dodge is a St. Louisian who has become famous in the past three years for three exceptionally good novels: "Bonnie May," the charming story of a child of the stage; "Children of the Desert" ranking with "Tess of the D'Urbervilles" and "Madame Bovary;" and "The Runaway Woman," decidedly original.

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WILLIAM M. REEDY, Editor and Proprietor

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A League Safe for Freedom

By William Marion Reedy

GERMAN impudence that combines something of insolence with playing the baby act will not postpone the peace. Reading the wail of the Teuton plenipotentiaries in the light of Erzberger's terms of peace to the Allies in 1914 the world sees in the ululation nothing but the rage and grief of those who set forth to give law unto the world at the bayonet point. The world-bully is ridiculous. Germany will submit without grace.

The League of Nations covenant cannot be rewritten in German terms—not one line of it. The Wilsonian, not the junker, interpretation of covenant and treaty in the light of Wilson's fourteen points will be accepted by the world. There is no sympathy for the thief who grieves over giving back stolen goods. Germany can make no friends now. She lost all possibility of making friends by her manner of conducting the war.

That the covenant is not perfect is as generally conceded as that the peace terms are just. There is the cession of Shantung to Japan. That does not look well, but then Japan says she will give the province back, and we cannot assume that Japan will break her word. The case of Fiume is not decided. President Wilson has not yielded to Italy. That port still stands assigned to Jugo-Slavia, but Italy, it is understood, may bring the matter and the whole pact of London before the League. That is what the League is for: it is a saucer in which to cool the superheated contents of national cups. All matters of mandatories are left to the League, too. The Allies have not taken Germany's colonies, but have turned them over to the League. The main thing, then, is to get the League started. To that end the covenant and the peace treaty should be approved by our Senate without delay.

Practically but one thing in the covenant stands in the way of approval. That is Article X. The evil thing about that is that it assumes that the League can fix up the world as a finality. It can't be done. There is no finality in human affairs—except death, and maybe not that. It is folly to suppose that the League can establish a *status quo* forever. It is absurd to think that we can stand committed to sustaining all territorial integrities as they are now integrated. Article X would be fatal to the League except for the provision for unanimous agreement as to such sustentation of territorial arrangement as the League has now established, and as to making common cause against possible attempts to change forms of government. For forms of government are not final. This country may accept Article X to get the League started, but certainly the article will have to be modified later, at least to the extent of limiting the agreement to a period of years not too long.

For the rest, the covenant is the best thing obtainable in the present circumstances. It were folly to cast it aside in the hope of perfecting it immediately. We must accept it as it is with the reservation that it is improvable and the determination that we will improve it. The things to remember are what the League leaves behind and towards what it advances. The nations and the peoples must take it, with its imperfections, and work it into something better. The League of Nations is not a task wholly done, but one just begun.

And the thing to be done at the earliest opportunity is to get Germany and Austria and Russia and all nations into the League; to help them to come in, not to exclude them. To do this we shall

have to go farther than most people imagine—we shall have to help them to pay their debts to us and to civilization. After that, the League of all Nations must buckle down to the task of destroying in all nations the conditions that have made and will make for war. Privilege, that sets nations at each others' throats, must go. Opportunity must be made free in all nations so that the people of some nations shall not fear the people of other nations will take their jobs, so that peoples will not seek places in the sun or room on the earth when in their home lands there are sun and earth enough for all. The way to accomplish this is indicated in Mr. John S. Codman's article, "How to Secure the German Indemnity," printed elsewhere in this issue. An earth free of war and of poverty must be one free of privilege and the death of all privilege is decreed in the doctrine of Henry George.

Reflections

By William Marion Reedy

Air Terminals for St. Louis

I BELIEVE the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce is still fighting the Terminal Association and the so-called arbitrary, trying to make East St. Louis pay St. Louis' coal-freight bills. And the city is building river docks and terminals. These things suggest that there are other terminals this city and indeed all cities should begin to provide for—air terminals. Aerial transportation on a large scale is coming; is, in fact, almost here. Every city should have capacious landing places for air-craft and for the hangars in which to house them. Those places should be properly located and provision made early for their extension and expansion in future, so that the city shall be saved from enormous expense in acquiring the necessary property as the necessities of air transport develop. Think of the money that would have been saved if there had been the proper provision in securing land early for our present terminals. Think of the political and other turmoil such foresight would have saved us. For air carriage big cities must get ready with more comprehension than was shown in setting up terminals, let us say, for the New York Central and the New Haven and the Pennsylvania in New York City, or for half a dozen roads in Chicago. Buying terminals a little bit at a time has been most wasteful and at that the quality of accommodation and service required has not always been secured. St. Louis should take time by the forelock on this matter. It should lay out space for air-terminals and keep control of that space forever, so that it will have something of profit and mastery of rates when the aerial commerce begins. The city can, by handling this problem in the proper spirit, be in perfect readiness to accommodate the new transportation business when it comes. There should be no waiting until a private air-terminal corporation has seized the opportunity and made itself master of the situation. Here's something upon which our Chamber of Commerce and our city authorities cannot get busy too soon. If they do not, the city may find itself far behind other large business communities in preparedness for a new condition in commerce. St. Louis must have air-terminals.

WHERE is that Republican Germany we have been hearing about lately? The howl over the peace terms is the howl of imperialist-militarists just realizing their defeat.

Revoke the War-Time Dry Act

THE alleged necessity of the prohibition of the sale of liquor on and after July 1st is passed. The war will be over and the demobilization of our army completed. There will be no shortage of grain, therefore no need to conserve the supply. People who have on hand large supplies of liquor manufactured under sanction of law should be permitted to dispose of it, to the millions of other people who want to buy it. To deny them this right is to take their property without compensation. As for the people who drink liquor, most of whom do so without harm to themselves or others, their feeling over the stoppage of the supply goes far deeper than most persons imagine, for those so deprived feel they are being punished for no fault. Their resentment against the oppression of such legislation is intense. They feel that the war and patriotism were made an excuse to foist upon them a condition desired by none but a few fanatics. So far as concerns federal prohibition under the constitution after January 16th next, that stands. There is no prospect that three dozen states will rescind legislative approval of the constitutional amendment. But between July 1st and January 16th there is no justification for prohibition, now that the war emergency upon which it was based, has ceased to exist. The President has the authority and the power to nullify this war act prohibition under the terms of the act itself. He should do so, because the enforcement of a war act when there is no war is an imposition upon the public under false pretence. The law is a "snap" law and its execution, in the special circumstances, will tend to breed disrespect for all laws. The millions of harmless drinkers should not be persecuted through official repression of their essentially innocent appetite. If President Wilson is a true democrat he will revoke the act for war prohibition. If he is inclined to theocratic strait-jacketing of people whose habits he does not approve of he will let it stand.

*Amnesty and Repeal*

THAT was a beautiful Paterian speech our President made at Paris the other day in laudation of free speech. Yet under our President's authority hundreds of men and women in this country are held in prison for exercising the right of free speech. They are punished under laws the occasion for which has vanished. The war they opposed is over. The war activities they were supposed to obstruct are ended. The prisoners have been punished enough. They are people generally speaking of a quality much more useful to the new order out of jail than in it. They are people as a rule sympathetic to the international and domestic policies of the administration, aside from the war. They are not criminals save by virtue or vice of laws that made criminal expressions of opinion that were not criminal before those laws were passed. In this sense the laws are ex post facto laws and therefore not good. In the spirit of his latest Paris speech the President should order the release of all those sentenced under the espionage acts. And Congress should repeal those acts at once.

*Let Us See What the Soldiers Do*

WE must not get too excited over the likelihood that the newly organized American Legion is going to run politics in this country for the control of the offices. The ex-wearers of the uniform may do worse than that. Up in Canada the Great War Veterans' Association is fulminating against protective tariffs and exploitation of natural resources and profiteering, and it demands a heavy tax upon land values. It is against Bolshevism and the actions of the privileged classes which generate Bolshevism. It is against the conscription act and those who put it on the books. The probabilities are that among our returned soldiers in the American Legion there will be found great numbers who are possessed by ideas of a similarly sane radicalism. They won't all be

stand-patters. And they won't be at all easy to swing on election day. Let us wait and see if the war hasn't liberalized and radicalized our soldiers, as it undoubtedly did the soldiers of England and Canada. And a thing to remember in this relation is that it was the vote of the soldiers abroad that defeated prohibition in New Zealand recently.

*Missouri's Dose*

MISSOURI is to retain its Tax Commission but not its present tax commissioners. Those gentlemen made the mistake of thinking it to be their duty to see that property throughout the state was assessed on an equal basis, that the country districts were not to be let down easy while the cities carried the burden. The recommendations of the commission were ignored by the Board of Equalization, members of which assumed to say that the taxes should be assessed as they decided and not as the law decrees. As a result of bogus equalization as between the counties the state revenues are insufficient and special taxes of various kinds are levied on business to the great hampering thereof. And while the state is short of funds the legislature votes salary increases for practically all the state employees. This is what the commonwealth gets from a business administration. The next administration will probably be a business one all right, but it will hardly be Democratic.

*Railway Administration.*

THERE is an estimated deficit of \$500,000,000 in government railroad operation, with business fully up to the 1917 standard. There's no telling how high the deficit will go, according to the experts. But why shouldn't railroad business be unprofitable, seeing that the administration has cut out all railroad advertising, except flat stuff, with all the "selling points" for particular lines eliminated. We heard something recently about an appropriation of \$1,000,000 for advertising, but the money must be in process of expenditure furtively. The advertising isn't visible. We hear also that the administration doesn't want people to travel if they can possibly avoid it—especially travel to the congested East. So why advertise? The railroad administration doesn't appear to be enough better than the Burlesonization of the mails and wires to talk about. As the man in the street sees it, the railroad administration is not good operatively or financially and the sentiment in favor of government ownership is being most effectively stifled. Who can be blamed for suspecting that there's where the efficiency of the government railroad administration comes in?

*Musicians' Union and Film Trust*

FIGHTING the Musicians' Union, many of the moving picture houses have decided to dispense with music at their shows. Some few movie proprietors retain their musicians. I am told that those who do this are discovering that the prices they have to pay for films to the big film companies are raised from about \$35 to as high as \$90. In order to keep going the movie proprietor who employs union musicians is penalized by an outrageously excessive cost of the principal material of his operation. He finds, I am told, that all the big film producers stand together on prices—high for friends of organized labor, low for those who fight unionism. This would seem to be an indication that there is a combination among big film producers to control the business. This is a matter that should be brought to the attention of the attorney general of the United States. If the combination exists it should be smashed as being a violation of the Sherman law. A film trust is a combination in restraint of trade, and it is not any better by virtue of the fact that the working of the combination is first revealed in an attempt to cut down the wages and the hours of members of the Musicians' Union.

Against Seniority Rule.

EIGHT Republican United States Senators have caucused and decided they won't support Penrose for chairman of the Ways and Means Committee or Warren for chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, though both these men are entitled to the places under the seniority rule. This means a split in the Republican majority in the Senate. It means, probably, that there is no danger that the League of Nations and the peace treaty will be rejected. The Senators who balk on the seniority rule are progressives. The Republican party is not going to be solidified as we thought it would be for the next presidential campaign. The men who revolt against the seniority rule deserve well of their country. They have struck a tremendous blow against machine politics and the intrenchment of special interests.

*Carranza on the Monroe Doctrine*

PRESIDENT CARRANZA of Mexico has given an interview on the Monroe Doctrine. He says Mexico does not and will not recognize the Doctrine, because it attacks the sovereignty or independence of Mexico. It is, says he, "an arbitrary measure which seeks to impose, and does impose upon independent nations a protectorate which they do not ask for and which they do not require." It is a protectorate exercised without the consent of the protected. Mexico does not want to be under tutelage. She wants no favors bestowed upon her. The United States desires not so much to protect the South American republics as to protect itself from European aggression. Mexico, says President Carranza, would have got rid of Maximilian without the Monroe Doctrine.

"How has the Doctrine ever benefited the United States?" queried the President. "Has the Doctrine ever been challenged by any European power? When the Doctrine was first laid down would the United States, which then was far from being as powerful as it later became, have been able to oppose successfully any European power which might have disputed it?" The Doctrine is wrong because it is applied only to the Spanish-American republics; it should apply, if at all, to all countries. Asked what he would substitute for the Doctrine, President Carranza said that probably no specific substitute is required and then proceeded thus:

"If we set up a principle of equality of all nations and adhere to it wisely and justly, there would be no place for a Monroe Doctrine, even assuming for the sake of argument that there is a present necessity for it, which I deny. This principle of national equality would serve, with possibly the universal acknowledgment of the right of the nations not concerned in the threatened aggressions, which the Monroe Doctrine is supposed to inhibit, to mediate and employ its good offices to prevent such aggressions. This principle of equality among the nations should comprehend mediation by one or more nations to prevent an armed conflict of aggression of the nature which usually leads to war. This would not be tutelage or protectorate. As a matter of fact, mediation of this nature is generally practiced, or at least offered, when conflicts are threatened. There is no Monroe Doctrine for the strong nations, and there would be no necessity for such a Doctrine for the benefit of the weak ones if the principle of equality is adhered to. Strong nations do not need a Monroe Doctrine or anything of its nature, because among strong nations their might as a rule has been regarded as their right."

This policy or principle of mediation, Mr. Carranza admits, is embodied in the covenant of the League of Nations, "but it applies only to those nations which are members of the League." The Doctrine, however, is not mediation. It says it means protection, but as interpreted it means control, or that the United States shall have "a free hand" in dealing with Latin-America. That was why the League was assailed by some senators—because it would not leave the United States that "free hand." Here's the Carranza parable of the Doctrine: "A

man comes to you and says he wants to do you a favor. You do not desire him to do so. You have no need of accepting favors from his hands. Yet, quite against your will, he imposes his favor upon you." Conceivably a man might fight as hard against such a favor as against an injury. Mr. Carranza would not discuss Mexico's exclusion from the League in relation to her inclusion in the Monroe Doctrine. He doesn't explain how Mexico is to get along *contra mundum*. Neither did he vouchsafe an explanation as to how it happened that he, or Mexico, sees so many things in about the same light as Germany. Also, says his interviewer, Mr. Robert H. Murray, Carranza declined to comment upon the report from Buenos Aires that the Mexican delegates there had been instructed by the Foreign Office in Mexico City to present to Argentina and other South American countries a project for the organization of a League of American Nations in opposition to the League of Nations.

It will do United Statesers no harm to think over Carranza's view of the Monroe Doctrine. The things Carranza says about it were quite generally said by many thoughtful Americans before the war. The League of Nations covenant leaves the Doctrine extant, but it doesn't remove the causes of probable complications with growing Latin-American countries like Argentina, Brazil and Chile, under the Doctrine. They may yet view it as a threat rather than a promise. There is much in what Carranza says. And neither Carranza's interview nor the Doctrine itself is conducive to peace, with or without a League of Nations. The Doctrine is not a guarantee of peace. The Lodge resolution against Japanese concessions in Mexico stands as a warning that the Doctrine may mean war. And if we want to go to war over the Doctrine the League of Nations cannot stop us.

♦♦

Turkey Talk to Germany

GERMANY called the tune in 1914 and led the dancing until late in 1918. Now she doesn't want to pay the piper. She started off her slaughterous saraband with wild professions of the new "religion of valor." Now she puts up a whine about the cruelty of those who made that valor turn tail. It is all highly unheroic, not to say pusillanimous. The declaration that she will not sign the peace treaty is probably pure bluff. Germany will sign, as she made France sign in 1871. After she has signed and shown evidence of a determination to behave herself, the magnanimity of the remainder of the world will consider what it can do for her in mitigation of the peace terms. Thus far, though, Germany has shown no greatness of soul, either in triumph or defeat, that should evoke anything of the kind in those nations upon which she made war by foul methods. She has shown no sign of repentance and there can be no forgiveness for her without reparation and restitution. She professes the faith of peace and justice, but "faith without good works is dead." Germany is not a game loser. She was arrogant when she seemed a winner and she is in danger of being contemptible in defeat. I am for taking her into the League of Nations at the earliest possible moment, but not on her own terms. We fought for the League of Nations and she shall not be permitted to substitute for it a league of her framing. The terms we handed her are mild compared with the terms she was prepared to hand the world in 1916—terms that would have paid all her war cost and set her up in commercial prosperity over every other people. She is not worse treated than she treated Denmark and France. Germany is getting what was coming to her—possibly, indeed, a little less than that. She was defeated at her own game and she cannot dictate the peace. If she could, then faith and unfaith would sure be equal powers. She will be taken back into full fellowship in the family of nations when she has brought forth fruits meet for repentance, and not before. The world in

Germany's case may not be in favor of capital punishment, but even so, that doesn't mean that it favors crowning the convicted murderer with flowers and bathing him in tears of sympathy. Germany should drop her appeal to sentimentality. She is wrong again in her psychology. The world will temper justice with mercy, but there must be justice before it can be tempered.

♦ ♦ ♦

How to Read Short Stories

By Thomas L. Masson.

SO many experts have written about how to write short stories, it appears to me that something should be said about a much higher art—that of how to read them.

It is obvious that they must be read—else the magazines might perish, and struggling families of rising authors incontinently starve. Personally I don't believe in encouraging Mr. Burleson to this extent.

I once employed a lady to read all the short stories in the magazines and let me know the best ones. At the funeral I was deeply moved by her courage and tenacity to the bitter end. She had been shell shocked by the *Saturday Evening Post*, domesticated by the *Woman's Home Companion*, effeminated by the *American*, gassed by the *Red Book*, shrapnelled by the *Smart Set*, devitalized by *Vanir*, Fair, denuded by *Snappy Stories*, culturized by *Harper's* and *Scribners* and highbrowed by the *Atlantic*. Yet she kept on unwavering, making the supreme sacrifice without a literary quiver. Her mind was gone, but her spirit lived.

Determined that no more lives should be lost if I could help it, I took the burden upon myself, but approached the field of battle warily, making up my mind that I would sell myself as dearly as possible.

I first essayed to read the beginning and the end of each story. There appeared to be an advantage to this method, until I discovered that I could save time by reading the beginning only, as from this I could usually gather what the end would be. I found, however, that I was missing something, because most of the stories are so cleverly written nowadays that the plot is submerged in the style and it makes small difference what the story is about so long as one gets the atmosphere. So I struggled to get the atmosphere and carry it away with me. The question then became one of selecting the best section of the story in order to get the most atmosphere to the square inch. This requires some practice, because some writers put all their atmosphere in the beginning, and if you take a running start and jump over that, you are lost in the plot. The names also bothered me. In the course of one month's issues there were hundreds of them. I am informed that this is the greatest strain on the authors—to secure names. Whole city directories and telephone books are used for the purpose, and a short-story writer without one of these dog's-eared first aids around the house is like an advertising poet without a rhyming dictionary.

It is obvious that something must be done about this. Why not take an idea from the navy and dub the characters as they do submarines, thus?: "L55 raised her face to B44 in an agony of indecision. 'Q17,' she moaned, 'has killed my pollyanna for you.'" This would release a lot of energy and enable about one-half as many more stories to be typed.

In striving for atmosphere in this manner, however, I found that I was getting the sections mixed up, so that if anyone asked me if I had read a certain story in the *Saturday Evening Post*, I would refer to something that I had read in *Harper's* or the *Pictorial Review*. I therefore suggest, in the interest of economy for the reader, as well as self-respect, that each magazine make a specialty of one atmosphere. A meeting of magazine editors

could be held for this purpose, and a gentleman's agreement reached in this important matter.

In spite of everything I could do, however, I found that I was running behind. I got so far behind that I was reading the short stories in magazines in the same month they were dated. Then, immersed in the cheap commercialism of the day—so far removed from the uplifting atmosphere of all short stories—I decided to take a complete rest and abandon the whole affair. Hereafter I would live a life of silent shame.

At this despairing moment I was met by a gentleman named O'Brien, who reads all the short stories published each year and then selects the worst ones and puts them in a book. At the end of each year all I had to do was to read O'Brien and know the worst. Why did I do this? Because I had then read so many short stories that I wouldn't have known a good one if I read it. By thus circumscribing my labors, confining myself strictly to O'Brien, I could begin at the bottom of the ladder and possibly work up.

Slowly, however, I awoke to the fact that I no longer had my freedom. I had become dependent upon another man's judgment. I honored O'Brien more than I can say, from the fact that he'd published three books and still lived, but I longed for the old days when I had my own head. So I began all over again.

And at last I think I may say that I have solved the problem. It is so simple that I marvel that I never thought of it before. I read the biographies of all the short story writers—what correspondence school they were graduated from, whether they were married or single and where they had lived. I was thus enabled to tell in advance what kind of stories they were going to write, and save an endless amount of trouble. I read one story for the atmosphere and style and by adding the author's biography, I've got him.

The Granite Mountain

By Lew R. Sarett.

TO CARL SANDBURG

I KNOW a mountain, lone 'it lies
Under wide blue Arctic skies.

Gray against the crimson rags
Of sunset loom its granite crags.

Gray granite are the peaks that sunder
The clouds, and gray the shadows under.

Down the weathered gullies flow
Waters from its crannied snow;

Tumbling cataracts that roar
Cannonading down the shore;

And rivulets that hurry after
With a sound of silver laughter.

Up its ramparts winds a trail
To a clover-meadowed vale,

High among the hills and woods
Locked in lonely solitudes.

Only wild feet can essay
The perils of that cragged way.

And here beneath the rugged shoulders
Of the granite cliffs and boulders,

In the valley of the sky
Where tranquil twilight shadows lie,

Hunted creatures in their flight
Find a refuge for the night.

Biology and Democracy

A CONDENSATION.

By W. M. R.

TWO weeks ago I condensed an article by Prof. Fischer of Cincinnati University in the *Unpopular Magazine*, in which he set forth the "New Hope in Heredity," demonstrating from the researches of Casper Redfield, the falsity of the scientific dogma that "there is no inheritance of acquired characteristics." Prof. Fischer says there is and that we can help it along by working for development of character and then by later marriage, when we have reached our best development. Thus we make our own character and can pass it on, strengthened, though those who receive it must use it to keep it up to quality.

The question naturally presents itself, How does this theory square with democracy? And I found in the April *Scribner's* an answer to this question by Edwin Grant Conklin, a celebrated zoologist, under the title "Biology and Democracy." A summarization of that article was therefore in order, for, clearly, if acquired character can be passed on, those to whom it is passed have an advantage, and, if they can hold it, can rule those less fortunate and less industrious in self-development.

Democracy is generally accepted as the natural order, especially since November 11, 1918, when autocracy collapsed and crumbled. In this country democracy is a kind of religion. We take it on faith. But is there scientific basis for the faith? Is there a natural law to base our civil laws? The answer is not easy. There is, as there ever has been, a distrust of democracy. It runs, says Mr. Conklin, through the histories of all nations, ancient and modern. It was shown even by the founders of this nation "in the limitations which were placed upon citizenship and suffrage and in the many attempts which were made to guard the highest offices against popular interference, as, for example, in the constitutional provision for the election of the President by an electoral college, the election of senators by State legislatures, and the appointment of judges by the executive. It appears today in the opposition to woman's suffrage, in the fear of popular control of education, and in the alarm over the spread of socialism and internationalism throughout the world."

How does democracy conform to such laws as we discover in the long perspective of the history of living things on this earth? Fundamental biological concepts undoubtedly apply to man as to other organisms, but do they so to problems of social organization? We find that biological sanction is claimed for wholly antagonistic opinions, as, for example, for and against war, woman's suffrage, polygamy, etc. Those who seek such sanction for any philosophy can easily find it in the large sweep of life among lower organisms in which every possible human condition has its parallel. What has biology to say about the Declaration of Independence and the truths it "holds to be self-evident?" What about "liberty, equality or fraternity?" How can we harmonize individual liberty and social organization, universal fraternity and national and class hostility, democratic equality and hereditary inequality? Or, to put the question in a more practical form, how can we develop social organization in spite of individual liberty, universal fraternity in spite of national and class antagonisms, democratic equality in spite of hereditary inequality?

As man grows in intelligence he becomes freer of the influences of external stimuli and responds less to internal instincts. Experience modifies instinctive responses. Reason rules, though man is never wholly free from purely instinctive acts. He is a self-determinator, but not absolutely so. Environment continues somewhat to condition him. We all know our duality, our inner conflict. In-

telligence and freedom interfere with instinct. Communities of ants and bees are harmoniously integrated because among them instinct is supreme. Disharmony is the price we pay for thought. And constantly the struggle for more freedom goes on—freedom of thought, speech and act; freedom in religion, government, industry. How far can freedom go? Social complexities of relation limit individual freedom. Life and evolution balance between opposing principles. Individual freedom or social co-operation, liberty or duty, individualism or socialism—how reconcile them? Which shall rule—the good of the one or of the many?

"There can be no question as to the biological answer," says Mr. Conklin. "The whole course of evolution from amoeba to man is marked by increasing differentiation and integration of the constituent parts of the organism; the whole course of development from the egg to the adult is a series of progressive differentiations and integrations of the constituent cells; the most essential feature of biological progress consists in the subordination of minor units to the larger units of organization. In the relations of organisms to one another nature invariably sacrifices the individual, if it be necessary, for the good of the colony or race or species. Race preservation and evolution is the supreme good, and all considerations of the individual are subordinate to this end."

Does the rule change when we come to human society? Mr. Conklin says if it does, then democracy means looser social organization and greater individual freedom, which seems, from a biological point of view, to mean retrogression or extinction, disorganization and devolution rather than organization and evolution. He says that individualism is not a necessary part of democracy. In its extreme it means anarchy. In this country we still hold strongly by individualism. We dislike specialization, the expert. Mr. Conklin thinks we need more of specialization and co-operation. The objective is a larger freedom of society, not the greater freedom of the individual. This is the biological ideal. "The freedom of the individual man is to that of society as the freedom of a single cell is to that of the human being"—the freedom of the minor units is limited.

Mr. Conklin holds that biology and the Bible agree that "God hath made of one blood all nations of men." All men are more alike than they are different. We all run back to about the same ancestors, good or bad. But think of the antagonisms among men—racial, varietal, national and class! There are intellectual and social differences. These represent natural classification based on physical characteristics. It is a matter of form rather than function. "The fundamental instincts of all types of men are so essentially similar that all may, and often do, live together harmoniously; and the co-operation of all types of men in organized society is so much a matter of education and environment that it has been demonstrated again and again, and nowhere better than in this country, that persons of the most distinct races may have the same social ideals and may co-operate in mutual helpfulness in the realization of those ideals." The natural distinctions between the so-called races of Europe are usually slight. Our "melting pot" here, proves this. "The biologist must look with concern upon the breaking up of European nations into minor independent units along lines of language, customs, or religion, just as the intelligent American would deprecate the breaking up of his own country along similar lines. Biological and social progress does not generally lie in that direction, as the course of evolution clearly shows." Differences between peoples due to environmental causes may to a great extent be removed. Mr. Conklin thinks the size of governmental units must vary with possibilities of integration and co-operation of the constituent parts and these possibilities are favored by homogeneity of race, language and education and

ease of intercommunication. All of these, except race, are environmental and therefore to a large extent subject to social control. Better communication and education make possible enormous units of federated states. The British Empire and our own republic are proof of this.

Social distinctions are usually anti-instinctive and utterly irrational. The rule of any one class exclusively is bad—from autocracy to Bolshevism. Equal universal suffrage and majority rule are the only self-regulating and self-preserving mechanisms for harmonizing conflicting interests in governments. There is danger of majority tyranny, but of minority tyranny, too, by a better class, so-called. Mr. Conklin believes that majority rule is mitigated by the tendency of the people to follow leaders, and he seems to think that common sense in the people will discover the right leaders to follow for the right principles. How biologically true this is, may be an open question.

Mr. Conklin exalts the influence of heredity as overwhelmingly greater than that of environment. How fares hereditary inequality as compared with democracy? We must not compare social and biological inheritance. Traits are redistributed in the egg. Their germinal causes are unchanged, but in the fertilization of the egg one-half of the genes from each parent is lost and is replaced by the half from the other parent. There are millions of these halves made into wholes and the traits they carry are distributed incalculably, so that in every person there is a new distribution of hereditary factors or genes. "Every person has a new hereditary deal, if not always a square one." The "bad eggs" of society happen when two recessive or backsliding genes of a certain type come together in a fertilized egg. Mr. Conklin stands by the Mendelian law—that character and ability cannot be entailed. Mr. Casper Redfield and Prof. Fischer say, and prove, that they can be, with care. Mr. Conklin maintains the law of Mendel is democratic. "Quaint old Thomas Fuller wrote many years ago in his 'Scripture Observations':

'I find, Lord, the genealogy of my Saviour strangely checkered with four remarkable changes in four immediate generations:

'1. Roboam begat Abia, that is, a bad father begat a bad son.

'2. Abia begat Asa, that is, a bad father a good son.

'3. Asa begat Josaphat, that is, a good father a good son.

'4. Josaphat begat Joram, that is, a good father a bad son.

'I see, Lord, from hence that my father's piety cannot be entailed; that is bad news for me. But I see also that actual impiety is not always hereditary; that is good news for my son'."

I have read recently William Hurrell Mallock's "The Limits of Pure Democracy" (Dutton), a big, close-knit, almost mathematical book, in which he claims to prove that "in any great and civilized state democracy only knows itself through the co-operation of oligarchy, or the many can prosper only through the participation in benefits which in the way alike of material comfort, opportunity, culture and social freedom would be possible for no one unless the many submitted themselves to the influence or authority of the super-capable few." Rather depressing one might say, at first; but whence come the oligarchs? From the people of one common blood. And if acquired characteristics are transmissible as developed, is there not the possibility of a democracy of super-capables? This must be biologically true, if evolution be true. Burns was no "sport." A visitor to his father's cottage said that at meal time every member of the family had a long porridge spoon in one hand and a book in the other. Everybody mostly can be a superman in character if he will strive for it.

"Publishers and Profiteers"

By Frederic G. Meleher.

(Secretary of the American Bookseller's Ass'n.)

THE heading of "Publishers and Profiteers" in your number of May 2nd immediately caught my eye, as it probably caught the attention of all the members of the book trade; and with your permission, I should like to put beside the statements of "A Book Buyer" other information on the subject. Your contributor, whose library has assumed such fine proportions, is too important a friend to the book trade to have us wish him to hold permanently that ill opinion of any group connected with it, and as there are certainly facts supplementary to those he has given that would interest him and others of the many book buyers that you reach, I should like your permission to put some of these forward.

I do this not as a publisher nor as a representative of the publishers. Perhaps they will themselves send another communication, but I have been a bookseller for over twenty years in Boston and Indianapolis, and as the present secretary of the American Booksellers' Association, I feel a little disturbed that a member of the retail branch of the book business gave so poor an explanation of present prices of books as that which was offered to your "Book Buyer" by the retailer to whom he talked. Besides this, I have been connected in editorial work for the past year with the periodical that goes to all the booksellers, and in gathering material for its pages, I have reason to be fairly informed as to the costs and conditions that are facing both publishers and retailers. There are many facts that seem to me to show that the publishers little deserve the accusation of "profiteers," which we all have the habit of passing around too freely.

Beside the question of price, which I will take up in detail, there are facts about the present state of the organization of the book trade which probably only those intimately interested could expect to be acquainted with, but which should be noted, as your writer was not fully conversant with these facts. He speaks in the second column of a "Publishers' Trust," air-tight and iron-clad, which he believes is a great detriment to bookselling. The fact is there is no American Publishers' Association and has not been for several years. The Sherman Law, which he believes might be invoked to break up this iniquitous combination, has already been invoked and the association is disbanded and not likely to be reorganized again. I am far from agreeing with your contributor that this is of benefit to the book trade and to the public, and I think all the facts in the case would bear out this statement. If ever a combination of manufacturers was formed, whose purpose and endeavors were altruistic, this was the one. Its organization dates back to 1901, the heyday of price cutting in the book trade. The organization intended to try to remedy this condition, not for their own benefit, except in ultimate gain of a steady market, but to stop the rapid winking-out of bookstores which was going on at an alarming rate.

With all recognition of what may be said with regard to the present efficiency of department store book business, it cannot be gainsaid that twenty years ago, when these departments were first starting, they were extensively used by the advertising heads of these stores as advertising bait to give the general impression of cheapness and price cutting to every department of the business. It has been the history of all such advertising that it is the merchandise with the fixed advertised price that makes the best material for such announcements, as the public more quickly recognizes the amount of the cut made. In 1900 "Eben Holden" and "Alice of Old Vincennes" were the country's best sellers. These sold in the cut-rate stores at 85

cents or 89 cents. The cost to the trade in small quantities was 90 cents and in larger quantities 85 cents and 81 cents. It is hardly worth pointing out that this would hardly be profitable business even for those buying at 81 cents, and it can be equally well demonstrated that when the bookstore sold at \$1.12, which was the common figure in the regular stores, it also was losing money unless the cost of doing business was below 25%, which it probably was not. Under these conditions, bookstores in larger cities were turning to rare books, second-hand books and remainder departments, where the profits were greater, and further west they were putting their energy into stationery and office equipment, which were all more profitable.

The publishers, realizing that their distribution points were diminishing, banded together and asked the co-operation of retailers in establishing a net price system, which at the start placed most fiction at \$1.20, \$1.25 or \$1.35, as against the former figures of \$1.12 or \$1.20. In doing this the price became uniform from one side of the country to the other, while it had formerly varied as much as from \$1.12

in New York to \$1.50 in San Francisco. The publisher received no more for his book from the retailers, and in some cases less. They also assumed the burden of supporting headquarters, and the secretary's work was to straighten out the innumerable complaints and bickerings that always come from a trade when each is suspicious of the other.

After several years of steady effort, supplemented by an organization of the retailers, there was a general recognition in both bookstores and department stores that, as the total margin they had to work with was only barely enough to support their business, it behooved them to keep this uniform price. The statement of your contributor that this effort tended to suppress book departments and to depreciate the character of the books that they were carrying is entirely without foundation. It is quite obvious that it is not the chance to make a living margin that runs down the character of any merchandise department; in fact, it is quite the other way. The reason that some departments have started up and then disappeared is because the mer-

(Continued on page 310.)

How to Secure the German Indemnity

By John S. Codman.

Attentive readers of this paper will recall two or three clear, succinct, brilliant letters from Mr. Haines D. Albright, assistant city solicitor of Philadelphia, in which he indicated that the way Germany should pay her war bill was by taking the rental value of junker privilege. Now comes Mr. John S. Codman, of Boston, and in the issue of THE DIAL (New York) of April 19th, presents this idea somewhat elaborated. He develops his theme artistically and logically, so that it takes form finally as a demonstration that in the philosophy of Henry George is to be found a prescription for the healing of nations. His article has place of honor in THE DIAL—on the first page—and its appearance there is gratifying evidence that the paper is getting down to realities from the tautological clouds of verbiage in which so many of the "uplift" periodicals of the intelligentsia are lost when they try to suggest political, social and economic remedies, all of them compromising with the fundamental iniquity of organized human society. In the same issue of THE DIAL there is also an article by Mr. H. J. Davenport in which he takes in large measure the same line as Mr. Codman in considering "Peace in Its Economic Aspect." THE DIAL accurately diagnoses the world's chief ailment and indicates the method of cure.

EVERY man who will allow his reason full sway rather than his passions and emotions, every man who cares more about the restoration of Belgium and France and the other countries devastated by the Germans than he does about punishing the Germans for the devastation, must realize that the only practical way to secure the great financial indemnity demanded on behalf of the devastated countries is to set the German people to work in productive enterprise. There is, however, a real fear that if this be done the payment of the indemnity may turn out to be a boomerang injuring those who receive it more than those who pay it. This fear among the statesmen of the Allied nations is well expressed by Lloyd George in a speech made at Newcastle on Nov. 29 last, in which he said that Germany must pay the cost of the war up to the limit of her capacity, and then uttered these words: "But I must use one word of warning. We have to consider the question of Germany's capacity. Whatever happens, Germany is not to be allowed to pay her indemnity by dumping cheap goods upon us. That is the only limit in principle we are laying down. She must not be allowed to pay for her wanton damage and devastation by dumping cheap goods and wrecking our industries." In other words, the danger appears to be that if the Germans are allowed opportunity to produce and exchange, their competition will wreck the industries of other nations, causing unemployment and disaster. Already with the end of war, unemployment is becoming a serious problem everywhere. How then can the Germans be put to work without lessening the opportunities of employment for the peoples of the Allied nations?

There is one way, perhaps, of side-stepping the whole question of giving Germans employment. It can be done by excluding them altogether, or in part, from access to the natural resources of their own country and then securing the indemnity by developing those natural resources by means of Allied and American capital and labor. To be sure, we could hardly say that under such circumstances the Ger-

mans would be paying the indemnity. They would simply be deprived of the opportunity to pay it, and the Allies therefore would have to pay it themselves, merely securing the advantage of free access to Germany's natural resources.

In addition, in so far as the Germans were deprived of access to their natural resources, their mines, their agricultural lands and so on, they would become unable to help themselves and would therefore starve or become the objects of Allied and American charity. Neither of these alternatives can be considered. On humanitarian grounds alone the first alternative is out of the question; and further, in either case, a stupendous army of occupation would be required to war upon the German people whether the object were to pauperize them or to starve them. We cannot avoid, therefore, giving employment to the German people if we desire the indemnity paid, and the larger the indemnity demanded the greater must be the opportunities afforded to German labor.

It might be thought, however, that if German labor must be employed, then at least it should not be employed for the profit of German capitalists, but should be employed directly in the service of the Allied nations; and it might be suggested, therefore, that Allied capital, or confiscated German capital, or both, should be used in the employment of Germans in Germany. But to this suggestion of directly diverting capital to the employment of Germans in Germany all the laboring men in every Allied country would protest. They will insist that, at this time of all times when employment appears to be scarce, all capital available shall be employed at home.

Another plan of securing reparation, which has actually been suggested, is that German laborers shall be forced to go into Belgium and France and there be made to repair the actual damage done, rebuilding the shattered cities and towns, repairing the damaged mines, and restoring the devastated fields. This would look like stern justice to some people, who fail to consider that the particular Ger-

mans forced into this slavery would almost surely be those least responsible for the outbreak of the war and the atrocities committed in carrying it on. Justice aside, however, it is certain that any such plan would be condemned at once by the laboring classes of the devastated regions. They would no more permit their jobs to be taken away from them in this way by Germans than they would permit the government to use convicts as strikebreakers. This plan, too, is entirely out of the question.

It appears then that after all it will be necessary to permit the Germans to exploit their own resources by their own labor and capital; and that the more quickly and effectively they are able to produce, the more quickly will the Allies receive the indemnities demanded.

But does it follow that the Allied nations and ourselves should trade with the Germans? If it will enable the Germans to produce more quickly and effectively, it would seem that the Allies ought to allow trade with them, and we also, if we desire to help the Allies; but if, as Lloyd George seems to think, the dumping of cheap goods will wreck British industries, or our industries, then surely we ought to think twice about it. How to secure indemnity to a nation, without injuring the nation getting the indemnity, seems in truth to be a real puzzle despite the apparent absurdity of the idea at first thought. It may be that Lloyd George in warning against the dumping of cheap goods, refers only to the practice of selling goods in a foreign country at less than the cost of production. This seems unlikely, however, since any goods cheap enough to be imported from Germany, whether sold at less than cost or not, would if imported displace similar goods in the markets of the importing country and would therefore be just as likely to wreck home industries.

What is more, it would seem that cheap goods from France or Italy or from this country would also wreck the industries of Great Britain. If, therefore, Lloyd George is to allow the importation of such goods, he is in the position of permitting the destruction of British industries out of deference to his Allies; or if, on the other hand, the danger from cheap goods is imaginary, he is then in the position of penalizing the Germans for no reason at all—with the result that they will be less able to pay the indemnity.

In fact, if the cheap goods argument is not a fake, it might be suggested that a good way for the Allies to deal with Germany would be to prevent her from exporting anything to the Allied countries and at the same time to forbid the German government to establish a tariff on Allied goods imported into Germany. In this way it might be argued that the cheap goods would go into Germany instead of out, and thus it would be the German industries that would be wrecked rather than those of the Allies.

The first objection to this suggestion is that wrecking German industries would hinder the payment of the indemnity. Second, however, and more important, the plan would not work out as above supposed because if the Germans could not export anything they would have no means of paying for the imports, and for that reason no imports would there be.

To some it would seem that the best plan would be to allow nature to take its course, or in other words to permit trade between the Germans and other peoples without governmental interference. It is certain that if this were done, trade would soon spring up not only between Germans and English, between Germans and Americans, but also even between Germans and French. Unless trading is mutually advantageous to the traders, it will not take place. On the other hand, if mutually advantageous, nothing will stop it except direct governmental interference. Perhaps the interference of government with the trade of its citizens may not always be harmful, but at all events it is certain that if the Allied governments are all going to put restrictions on German trade, the Germans will not

be able to pay the indemnity as soon as they otherwise could. Unless they can import raw materials, their industries cannot prosper, and unless they can export their manufactures to pay for the imports, then they cannot obtain the raw materials. They will have to be sufficient unto themselves, using only their own raw materials which are limited in character; thus their productive powers will be stunted and the indemnity will be hard to exact. Moreover, too much economic pressure on the German people will drive them into a bloody revolution and then all hope of getting reparation for Belgium, France, Serbia, Poland, and Roumania will be gone.

The conclusion seems to be unavoidable that the Allies ought, for their own sake, to permit the Germans to exploit their own natural resources with their own labor and capital, and ought to accord to them also liberal trading privileges in order to increase their productive power. The Allies might very wisely go even further, however, and in order to insure that the productive power of the Germans shall be increased to a maximum, they might dictate to them just how the revenue required to run the Government and pay the indemnity should be raised. The Allies may well insist that the method adopted be one that will stimulate productive effort, that will encourage the enterprising and industrious Germans, and will prevent the monopoly of economic opportunities.

This can best be done by making all owners of agricultural land, of mines, of water power, and of valuable urban sites pay over for the benefit of the Allied governments as indemnity the full rental value of the exclusive privileges enjoyed through such ownership. These payments should not include rental for agricultural improvements, nor for mine shafts and machinery, nor for hydro-electric installations, nor for buildings of any kind, but only rental for the privilege of exclusive access to natural resources.

Such a plan ought to be welcome to the great mass of the German people. Sentimentally, it would make little difference to the factory hands, to the peasants, to the tenant farmers, to the employers, and to the owners of German capital if the rent which had in any case to be paid to the discredited Junker and landlord class were simply passed on to the Allies to settle the indemnity. Practically, however, the plan would be of great advantage to the productive and enterprising classes since, in the first place, they would be relieved of taxation to just the extent that the Junkers had to pay; and—what is more important—access to natural resources would no longer be open to them only at exorbitant prices, or closed to them altogether. The power of the land-owning class to withhold natural resources from use or to demand for their use industry-prohibiting rentals would be broken. Being obliged to pay over to the Allies the full rental values of the natural resources, whether used or unused, the land-owning class would be under the imperious necessity of renting or selling to the industrious classes, or of giving them employment. No longer would it pay to own land and other natural resources merely to draw tribute from others.

The plan would redound enormously also to the advantage of the Allies. With free access to the natural resources and raw materials of industry, unemployment among the German people would largely disappear. With the German people all busily engaged in productive enterprise, the indemnity which the Allied nations desire to obtain as quickly as possible would be forthcoming in a remarkably short time, and the fear, moreover, that Germany might become a plague spot of revolution and anarchy, or be restored to its former autocratic masters, would soon fade away.

At this point, however, the reader may protest that if this plan be carried out, the German people, freed from the shackles of monopoly, will be on the high road to becoming the most prosperous and happy people in Europe, if not in the world—and this as a reward for their guilt in bringing on the

most criminal assault on civilization in all history. True, but nevertheless the Allied peoples will have got what they wanted, namely, quick payment of the indemnity to the unfortunate people of the devastated regions and at the same time a stable government in Germany, one neither aggressive nor anarchistic because of the happiness and contentment of its people.

If, finally, the question arises, how then should the Allied peoples gain an equal prosperity and contentment, the answer is plain: Let the Allied peoples, also, break the back of the monopoly of their natural resources by forcing the holders of those natural resources to pay in full for the value of their privileges, payments not to be made to any foreign governments, but to their own governments to be used for the benefit of all the people. Then the preposterous phenomenon of unemployment will disappear from among the Allied nations as well as in Germany; the laboring classes, freed from the competition of the unemployed, will secure the full value of their labor; and the great captains of industry, freed from monopolistic exactions, will be able to establish greater industries than the world has yet seen, in which the savings of the workers will be invested.

Then will the time come when a League of Free Nations will be in truth a permanent reality and the peace of the world will be definitely assured.

A History of Voting

By Percy Werner

WE accept the ballot as a very simple matter of fact, but it represents a vast deal of human history. Two industrious compilers, Charles Seymour and Donald Paige Frary, of the department of history at Yale, have got most of it into a book—"How the World Votes, or The Story of Democratic Development in Elections" (C. A. Nichols Co., Springfield, Mass.). The work, in two volumes, with thirty-five chapters, ranging from the theories of suffrage to present tendencies, covers the development of the machinery of the electoral institutions of Great Britain, Ireland, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Russia, Scandinavia, Belgium and Holland, Switzerland, Spain and Portugal, the Balkans, Turkey, South America and Japan. The story is an interesting one of the attempts to give true expression to, and correct registration of, public opinion, which, in the final analysis, is what voting is. The authors show practically the same problems and course of development in all countries where the ballot is in use. In all of them we find the same struggle toward the goal of universal suffrage, the same attempts at restrictions and limitations on the electorate, as by birth, or by property and literacy qualifications, the same extensions of suffrage toward the masses, the same apathy on the part of, and the same efforts of, the privileged classes autocratically to control the masses in their voting, the same experiences with bribery and corruption at elections, with the same expedients and devices to curb and control fraud and dishonesty.

Four theories or philosophic bases for suffrage are set forth in the introductory chapter: the automatic basis of membership in the State, a hereditary or landownership qualification, that of inherent natural right, and that of political expediency. Of the last the authors say: "However narrow-minded in its first application, the concept of the suffrage as a public office is accepted today by the weightiest authority as being the basis of a more efficient democracy than can be developed upon natural right. *** It is therefore a right existing by grace of the law, and not prior to law." As expressed by President Cleveland: "Your every voter, as surely as your Chief Magistrate, under the same high sanction though in a different sphere, exercises a public trust." We think that even the women suffragists, who are now granted the suffrage on the far more complimentary utilitarian theory of political ex-

pediency than of inherent right, will not quarrel with this conclusion.

This study of the electoral systems of the different countries shows a uniform tendency toward perfecting political machinery so as to rid it of inequality and injustice in its workings and adapt it to a ready and prompt response to the genuine will of the people. It is the story of the growth of the people's control of their government as expressed at the polls. Obviously the right of voting is of value to citizens only as machinery exists for expressing and making effective their will. Of course, the difficulties of the problem were vastly increased with the extension of suffrage to millions of voters of mixed nationalities and varying grades of intelligence and literacy, together with the absurd number of elective offices which we in these United States have insisted on creating. Everywhere, irrespective of the underlying theory of suffrage which is accepted, and varying in the speed or slowness of reforms according to the strength of the control exercised by the upper classes, we find the same development of the democratic franchise. The whole subject is a modern one, since the history of suffrage as we understand suffrage, is not much more than a century old.

The tendency in all countries is toward universal, equal, secret voting with official ballots, and irrespective of birth, wealth, religion, intelligence, capacity, influence in the State, or of sex. By common consent the criminal, the mentally deficient, minors and aliens, are excluded from the electorate. The experiment by the Bolsheviks of including only the proletariat in the electorate and excluding the bourgeoisie and all others is, of course, a freak in the history of electoral institutions—how sharp and educative the contrast with the magnificent and historic settlement of the labor difficulties in England in the month of March, 1919, by the conference between representatives of labor, of employers, and of that great third party, the consumers or public. Everywhere and always it has seemed absurd to the educated classes that individuals who have no "stake", i. e., property stake, in the country, no education nor capacity, who contribute nothing to the public revenues (though in truth there is none of these latter), should be allowed to have a voice in questions of State. But the work under review, and the experiences of the people of all countries, as told therein, show that there is a definite race instinct in the matter of common interests, and in the formation of public opinion thereon and in its registration or expression through elections, that cannot and will not be stifled, slow as it has been in developing. This has been frankly and intelligently recognized in our country by a determination to recognize and to meet the situation by educating the voter rather than by restricting the electorate—to bring the ballot within the comprehension of the masses rather than to adopt a system which would tend to perpetuate poverty and ignorance by excluding from the electorate the very classes most interested in getting rid of these curses.

But there is perhaps a still better reason for the manifestation of this race instinct for a universal voice in the control of common or public affairs, which is suggested by a paper on "The Mental Attitude of the Educated Classes," which appeared in a recent number of *The Dial*. The experience of the masses with the privileged classes in the past has not been the happiest. The masses, on the whole, have been more amiable, liberal and humane, the classes more selfish, more narrow, more influenced by traditional ideas. The educated classes are naturally controlled by the ideals transmitted by the educated classes of the past. But because the so-called educated classes are more familiar with the history, the literature, the art and the culture of past generations, they are not necessarily thereby of higher mentality than the masses, nor given better to understand the needs of the latter. Even our intellectual leaders are beginning to see, and to say,

that when it comes to fundamental, human, social problems, the judgment of the masses is more reliable than that of the *intelligentsia*. How to work out the details of a given social problem may well be left to scientific specialists, but the question of what step shall be the next to be taken to advance the general welfare, is believed more likely of a happy solution when left to be determined by the masses. So far as the machinery of electoral institutions is concerned, the registration of voters, the official ballot and the secrecy of voting are undoubtedly permanent acquisitions. The preferential ballot and proportional representation of majority and minority parties in deliberative bodies, seem equally certain to become universal. Compulsory or obligatory voting has met with little favor. Voluntary self-disfranchisement is surely preferable. The simplification of the ballot, by reducing the number of offices to be filled by ballot, even, possibly, to the sole office of representative in the deliberative assembly, is probable. We should like to see this excellent work of Messrs. Seymour and Frary on "How the World Votes" followed by an equally comprehensive work on "Why the World Votes." The work under review gives us the history of democratic forms. The other would give us the history of the growth of intelligent, democratic, public opinion. Unfortunately, in the matter of elections, we seem to have busied ourselves with the construction of the machinery for the use of people who have but most hazy notions as to the end or purpose for which they are to work it. The history we suggest would concern itself with these ends rather than with the electoral machinery and its workings. We suspect that in our democratic development we have been putting the cart before the horse—swelling the electorate without studying its true province and function, constructing machinery with little thought as to the generation of power to run it, and that much of our discouragement with democratic institutions and "machine politics" is due to this.

Occasional Observations

By Horace Flack

XIX

PRACTICAL RELIGIOUS PERCENTAGES

I HAVE all the recorded sayings of the Seven Sages, as they were reduced to writing by the Seven Sages themselves, or their disciples. They did not all live at the same time, but in recording their own sayings, they all had the same purpose, which was to make civilization less uncomfortable. When one of them appeared and was identified as a Sage, people who were not civilized comfortably, might travel long distances to ask his advice. So to save expense, all that each Sage knew was finally condensed into the fewest possible number of words in the fewest possible sentences. I need quote only a single sentence: "Get acquainted with yourself," to suggest to the discriminating why, though I have all the Seven Sages knew in a single volume, I do not assimilate it or profess to be representing it.

Getting acquainted with myself, as far as I have done so, has never increased my comfort in life. And as far as I am acquainted with other people, what they seem to me to need most is comfort in life—including all its varieties, spiritual, intellectual and physical.

It is the declared purpose of civilization and religion to supply this comfort and to increase it. If at times this purpose seems to fail, I suppose it is because, being human, we are naturally inconsiderate. After observation of what others might call the very worst in the nature of men and supermen, this is all I can say in the attempt at accurate definition. Being human, we are by nature inconsiderate, and we are always likely to grow more so as we attempt to grow superhuman.

In our primitive condition, we are not atrocious monsters, as some would have us believe. As we

have been considerably studied by Moseley and others who are really sensible, it is clear that all the good qualities which make men most civilized or religious belong to men in their most primitive condition. When they enslave or eat each other in primitive human life, it is because they do not think that their enemies or mere strangers are entitled to the same consideration they show their kindred or their friends. So a stranger, even when, after being captured, he was being supplied with the best food, might not feel at all sure that he was being treated with genuine consideration. I have lately read in the history of one of the first families of Virginia—with which it might not be considerate here to claim connection—that when one of its most faithful servants was first imported from Africa, in the Eighteenth century, and supplied with the best food in plenty, he fasted deliberately, and kept himself as nearly as possible in the same emaciated condition in which he had been imported by the captain of the slave-ship. He was finally convinced by other Africans, previously imported, that he was not being fattened for the table. After this discovery, he ate freely and showed increasing affection for the family which owned him.

I might not be filled with joy and gratitude under any system which made it possible for me to fatten physically, while kept under control intellectually and spiritually, but in such a case I might feel less uncomfortable by recognizing the measure of consideration shown me, than by inflicting on myself the continuous anguish of acute indignation. After all, using our fellow-humans as man power instead of food is the greatest permanent advance ever made in political history, and all political economy is based on it. So why be indignant with political economy?

The continuous anguish of acute indignation is much more distressing, I think, than anything our Anglo-Saxon and other European ancestors felt when they were having their heads removed, that their skulls might be used as raw-material in the manufacture of drinking cups, for use in Valhalla by the heroic. As the Seven Sages were not modern enough to have acute indignation inflicted on them by reading newspapers under voluntary or involuntary censorship, they did not leave us a remedy in tabloid form for this distressing result of modern invention.

We have it in the Golden Rule, of course. But as the Golden Rule would prevent us from whipping our enemies into complete subjection before beginning to treat them with such consideration as you—selves expect, its operation when it is most needed, is always likely to be prohibited by Espionage Acts and other special statutes. Hence when the Golden Rule is not permitted to work politically outside of our jails and penitentiaries during any modern heroic period, we need some method of making it, if not practical, yet at least as practical as circumstances permit.

We may discover this through an experiment in percentage. As at times both our friends and our enemies may be, or appear to be, wholly inconsiderate of our feelings, we may perhaps avoid the most acute indignation by applying fifty per cent of the Golden Rule to our friends and ten per cent to our enemies. If this does not succeed, we may try to converse—say, fifty per cent to our enemies and ten per cent to our friends. The result may be astonishing. If we ever treat a dozen people with half the consideration we expect for ourselves, they may be too much surprised to understand it. So in our treatment of the inconsiderate, we may do well to be cautious. "Numquam nimis"—"never too much"—is one of the tabloid prescriptions of the Seven Sages. Ten per cent may be better in beginning than fifty. If that does not prove practical, we may try five. If we can introduce even five per cent of the Golden Rule into the political history of the Twentieth century, the result may be a revolution that will never go backwards—as all other revolutions have done to date.

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Publishers and Profiteers

(Continued from page 307.)

chandising heads have found that even with the assured margin of about 30 per cent to 34 per cent they cannot find it as profitable as other merchandise they are carrying. This is probably not more than two or three stores in the country that continue to give discounts to customers from the listed price, and these do join the fixed principle of cutting on articles that have established prices in order to give the impression of cheapness throughout the store. The plan was indicated by a recent suit at the Ingersoll watch people had in court where the Ingersoll people had offered to supply the firm with the identical watch for cut price business, but without the Ingersoll name on it. The store refused to handle this merchandise, showing that it was not their wish so much to give the people a low price as to use merchandise of established character as a bait.

The competition between booksellers as to price is perhaps a thing of the past, but at the same time it is quite obvious that this does not establish such a margin of profit that merchants

are rushing into this business. If your "Book Buyer" will count up the number of bookstores in St. Louis or in any other middle western city he will be convinced.

Now to turn to the problem of war prices. Your correspondent has been very concrete and the titles mentioned furnish very good examples of different phases of the present price situation. It is probably better to deal as largely as possible in concrete instances, although in the background one has to keep in mind, as in every business, that the leading economists and financiers in the country have pointed out that the dollar has about two-thirds of the value it had before the war. If books had gone up in that proportion, there would indeed be exclamations on the part of the public, but while we are facing about that increase on our shoes, our clothing, stationery, jewelry and what not, and probably I myself have been one to exclaim that somebody is profiteering, it is quite evident from the prices that your correspondent has brought forward that no such increases have gone forward in this field; in fact, from several analyses that I have made of manufacturing costs and present



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prices in the preparing of articles on book-trade conditions, I have been surprised that the publishers have been able to keep prices so low. The facts will certainly bear out this statement.

Before speaking, however, of American manufacturing conditions, I should like to speak separately of one book mentioned, "En Route," which is described as being "a new American edition printed on abnormally thick paper, the old trick of swelling eight ounces into a pound." This book is not an American edition but is English sheets, and those familiar with the present costs of book manufacture in England and the prices being set there for new books as a consequence, will not at all be surprised that the American market had to set the price of \$2.50. In fact, it is very difficult now to bring over English books in the face of the duty of 15 per cent and set a price that will

make possible a sale in the American market. I have in mind a book published this month, an important discussion of the British industrial situation, an altogether timely and authoritative book. The English price for this octavo is 18 shillings; the American publisher has put up a price of \$3.50. I asked how this could be done and he said it could not be done with a margin of profit, but if he set the English price of \$4.50, his American market would be very critical, and yet he so thoroughly believes in the importance of a discussion of this subject that he brought the book over with no margin of profit.

It can also be remembered by individual buyers with regard to the American prices of English books that they have a very vigilant committee of observers in the public library purchasers. These institutions can bring books from England without duty, which our pub-

fishers cannot. If the American price of any publication unduly exceeds the English price, the libraries send their orders direct to England. This is perfectly well understood by every American publisher and the public thus has an automatic check against all such increases.

Now as to American costs of book-making. In January I checked up from several publishers the difference in their costs of manufacture over ten months before. The average increase from the exact bills I looked over was about 40 per cent. There have been other increases since. The cost of printing in New York has gone up in a year about 33 per cent; binding has increased more heavily than this. I saw an exact bid yesterday on a lot of 2,500 and the price was doubled in a year. These prices are not showing any real signs of decrease. Paper, which took its big increase two years ago, is still very high. Even the jackets on the books cost double what they did. The printers and binders in the publishing centers have been so busy with catalogs and new work that has come with the starting up of business that it has been difficult to get work through at all, and with the resultant difficulty of getting any competitive bids. Many books have gone out of print on the publisher's lists which he would ordinarily reissue in a small lot of 500, but which he absolutely cannot manufacture within any price that is reasonable, and the books remain out of print. I feel that it would be particularly unfortunate to pick out for attention the present catalog prices of such a firm as Houghton, Mifflin & Co., as they have been peculiarly just to their authors in keeping in print in war times books which had to be made up in small quantities of from three to five hundred copies, with the prospect of thus creating a supply that would last four or five years before profit was taken over the cost. The increase of Thayer's "John Hay" from \$5 to \$7 is, to my mind, from an examination of what figures I have seen, almost exactly the justifiable percentage in the face of present costs. Your contributor speaks of plates already having been made for numerous books. It should be remembered that the plates do not mean the printing any more than lasts mean shoes, and the "John Hay" book has to be now printed and bound in smaller quantities, where formerly in better conditions it could be printed and bound in lots of 5,000.

I have mentioned the usual cost of fiction of twenty years ago, when net prices were established, as averaging about \$1.25. The present average prices for what we call popular sellers is about \$1.50, and more solid and serious fiction, on which the publisher can perhaps expect less circulation, such as the English realists or European translations, the prices have reached about \$1.75, where fifteen or twenty years ago they would have been about \$1.40. Without speaking as a publisher or endeavoring to be their spokesman, I can say with all assurance that to keep the prices at such slight increase means very careful watching of expense. It can probably be said in a general way

that to issue a book of fiction successfully at \$1.50 the manufacturing cost must not go over 50 cents. Of the balance, 50 cents would go to the book-seller, 10 cents to the jobber and 40 cents to be divided between author, advertising mediums and publisher. That safety mark of one-third has been overstepped by most publishers, in spite of the best they can do in keeping costs down. One large publisher has told me

that his manufacturing costs rose last year to 38 per cent, which meant that profits were practically eliminated. He has now reduced this to 35 per cent, still above the safety mark.

There is still a good profit when books run to large editions because of the great economies in the manufacturing, but it should be remembered that the number of books so developed is comparatively few and these must help

to carry on the others. The "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse" has probably been very profitable at \$1.90, but there would have been few in the book trade to have prophesied its great success when the book was started on its way and the price set. In view of the losses that had been previously incurred by those who had marketed other books by Blasco Ibañez, the publisher was certainly not justified in putting as low a



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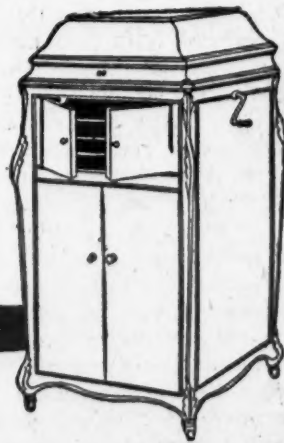
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price as if he could have foretold that the book was to soar rapidly over 100,000. It seems a little uncalled for to take a fling at the publishers for using the success of this book to revive former titles of this author. Surely to keep him out of sight is not in the public interest, and if your contributor is really as enthusiastic about this author as he claims to be, such revivals should have his approval instead of condemnation. It might be pointed out, too, that Conrad, to whom he refers, went through exactly the same

process as Blasco Ibañez, and the early and unsuccessful titles were brought again to light when success had finally perched on the Conrad banner.

It would be very easy from the figures and records of the *Publishers' Weekly* to elaborate on the prices as compared to the present costs in the book business, but this might only serve to weaken the point and seem to indicate that I have protested too much. There may be cases where publishers have set too high prices; they are perhaps only human. At this time I cannot think

of any good examples of this. Certainly there are a few excesses brought out by the present emergency, for the American public is such a small user and purchaser of books that the publisher is very loath to jeopardize the market in the slightest by any change in prices.

When it is considered that we spend in this country probably less than 50 cents per capita for books every year, exclusive of school books, and when many large cities fail to support any reasonably complete bookstore, it can

be seen that there is some truth in the statement that the publisher has a market that must be tenderly handled.

There are indications brought about by the war and by the tremendous interest in this reconstruction period that there is to be a really new revival in American bookselling. In this the Middle West is one of the areas that is showing the greatest interest. It is to be hoped by all who believe in the spread of the book that every city in our country can well support more bookstores and should do so. If everyone had the interest in books that is shown by the accumulation of them which your correspondent has made, the book business would fare well indeed.

I hope that these corrections may be accepted in the spirit in which they are sent, from one who thoroughly believes and hopes for healthy American bookselling conditions, and who does not wish to see such possibilities impeded by the spread of information that is not wholly justified.

* * *

She Is Overheard Singing

By Edna St. Vincent Millay

Oh, Prue she has a patient man,
And Joan a gentle lover,
And Agatha's Arth' is a hug-the-hearth—

But my true love's a rover!

Mig her man's as good as cheese

And honest as a briar;

Sue tells her love what he's thinking of—

But my dear lad's a liar!

Oh, Sue and Prue and Agatha

Are thick with Mig and Joan—

They bite their threads and shake their heads,

And gnaw my name like a bone!

And Prue says, "Mine's a patient man,
As never snaps me up";

And Agatha, "Arth' is a hug-the-hearth,

Could live content in a cup";

Sue's man's mind is like good jell—

All one color, and clear;

And Mig's no call to think at all

What's to come next year;

While Joan makes boast of a gentle lad,

That's troubled with that and this.

But they all would give the life they live

For a look from the man I kiss!

Cold he slants his eyes about,

And few enough's his choice—

Though he'd slip me clean for a nun or a queen,

Or a beggar with knots in her voice.

And Agatha will turn awake

When her good man sleeps sound,

And Mig and Sue and Joan and Prue

Will hear the clock strike round.

For Prue she has a patient man

As asks not when or why;

And Mig and Sue have naught to do

But peep who's passing by;

Joan is paired with a putterer

That bastes and tastes and salts;

And Agatha's Arth' is a hug-the-hearth—

But my true love is false!

From *Poetry: A Magazine of Verse*
(May)

Some Stories

By Ruth Mather

The works of an author which appear posthumously are nearly always disappointing. It is usually some puerile effort of the great man's youthful years or some unfinished fragment of a more mature period that the publishers manage to unearth. But perhaps there are readers who will welcome the short story "Gabrielle de Bergerac," by Henry James—now brought out for the first time in book form (Boni and Liveright, New York), the more warmly that it is in the earlier manner of our expatriate genius. And, therefore, this story, "Gabrielle," has none of the circumlocutions of thought and psychology one associates with the later style of Henry James: it is a story one can see, as well as hear and understand and feel. *Gabrielle de Bergerac* is the sister of a petty nobleman of provincial, pre-revolutionary France. Her impecunious brother wishes to bring about her marriage with the *Vicomte de Treuil*, prospective heir to a fortune. But *Gabrielle* falls in love with a tailor's son acting as tutor to her small nephew. That the characters are delicately drawn goes without saying, since the work was that of James. The setting is colorfully evoked, and the picture of a bygone day more vividly presented through a technical device by means of which comparisons and contrasts are made with the life of a more recent era. It can all be so clearly visualized! To read "Gabrielle," in fact, with its simple lucidity, makes one realize how wholly developed—not to say unnatural—was that labyrinthine complexity which James at last acquired. Did this complexity become an affection with him, or, innate from the outset, was it an essential concomitant of the full unfolding of his genius? In his growth as an artist James might be compared with a provincial American who goes abroad and cultivates an English accent. When he returns home his aristocratic air is open to him doors where once he was denied, but the honest blunt old souls who loved him for himself are not half so pleased. In the same way, James reached the point where he was worshipped by the real "high-brows," but, after all, did he not lose something of charm and straightforwardness to attain such triumph?

In dealing with novels on sex subjects, the reviewer has hard work in determining the sheep from the goats. The sheep being, of course, those novels in which the author has sincerely endeavored to solve some moral problem, and the goats those in which the pandering proclivities of the writer are too disgustingly evident. But it is safe to say that "The Wine of Astonishment," by Mary Hastings Bradley (D. Appleton & Co., New York), may be classified as innocent enough mutton, though the author treats therein with outspokenness of the institution of marriage. *Evelyn Day* jilts her lover, *Jim Clarke*, in order to marry a wealthier man. (This sounds somewhat raw, but the author's motivation is really excellent.) The wealthier man treats *Evelyn* with the utmost kindness, so that al-

though she comes to feel her life with him intolerable, yet the young woman would have too guilty a conscience in begging off the bargain. Her dilemma is well demonstrated, but the author, alas! is driven to the use of coincidence in effecting a way out. The story is set in Chicago—the North and West sides there: a welcome change from the conventional New York of almost all the "society" novelists.

"Diverging Roads," by Rose Wilder Lane (The Century Co., New York), is a novel in which the author is her own heroine, though she calls herself "Helen" and writes in the third person throughout. She describes her everyday struggles to gain a living in varied environments of California—Sacramento, San Francisco, and oil and farm lands. Since it is autobiographical, the account has hardly a plot, and the matter is but little interpreted. One takes it from the title, however, that the author intended as the significance of her story this: that through her endeavors to earn success in the working world she became unsuited for marriage with the man she most deeply loved. But it is rather action than philosophy that the author affords—action of an ever-absorbing sort with always the fascinating illusion of reality. For a first novel this is a promising achievement, though use of material ready-made for her through life leaves still to be tested the author's powers of imaginative invention.

The reaction upon the reader of "Good Sports," a collection of short stories, by Olive Higgins Prouty (Frederick A. Stokes Co., New York), is healthfully ethical. Nine "good sports" the collection contains—from the little invalid who climbs a mountain because she must or be named a quitter, to the sullen young country girl whose life holds nothing but drudgery and care. Though these are stories out of the heart rather than the head, they are not namby-pamby emotional or preachy. Instead they are Sunday-schoolish, if at all, after the way of some virile and enthusiastic Y. M. C. A. worker whom all his young people adore.

"Mimi" is the name of a short story, and of the heroine of the same short story, by J. U. Giesy (Harper and Brothers, New York). *Mimi*, the heroine, is a little Parisienne, an artist's model and mistress—without morals of a conventional kind, but noble-hearted, nevertheless. When her lover goes to war, she remains courageously true to him and to her conception of her duty to France. "Mimi," the story, is emotionally moving, and aesthetically concise.

Out comes E. Phillips Oppenheim's forty-fourth novel—or thereabouts—"The Curious Quest" (Little, Brown & Co., Boston). This author has an almost inhuman facility of imaginativeness, and turns out a pretty good story or two a year, at the very least, with the unflinching precision of a machine. Like machine-made embroideries, his books as a rule are neither very marvel-

ous productions, nor at all poor. It is the only hand-made work, with respect to embroideries or books, that can be utterly crude or quite masterly. In "The Curious Quest" Mr. Oppenheim presents once more that perennially attractive theme of the rich young aristocrat in-

cognito, playing fairy godfather to the poor. There is amusing characterization of types of London lower life that the hero encounters. It is a story of more technical simplicity than most of Mr. Oppenheim's, though none the less pleasing on that score.

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now operating in St. Louis cannot extort a "commission" from you if your valuables are in a Mercantile Safe Deposit Box.

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INVESTMENTS

SECURITIES

Cosmo Hamilton's recipe for writing a novel is evidently to devise the most suggestive situation he can possibly imagine, and then write a story around it. In the case of "Who Cares?" (Little, Brown & Co., Boston), the situation is that of a young woman determined to have a good time in life at no matter what cost to herself or others. So she marries a decent young man for the sake of her own independence and his wealth, but without the least idea of repaying him in even the most elemental way for the bounty he affords her. Youth is the excuse she makes for all her shortcomings and Mr. Hamilton accepts this excuse, it would seem, since he gives her a happy ending. In real

life, however, it would hardly be possible for such a character to come scot-free out of the scrimmage, and even should she do so, she would decidedly not deserve it. Hence "Who Cares?" is an immoral story in more than one way. Though there is no denying that Mr. Hamilton does his New York City settings somewhat well.



A number of English schoolboys were taken to see a performance of "The Merchant of Venice." When Shylock in the court scene was urgently demanding his pound of flesh, one of the youngsters cried out in eager tones to the judge, "Make him show his meat card."

Marts and Money

The last day of the Victory Loan drive brought some rather tense moments on the New York Stock Exchange. Numerous popular issues dropped two to eight points on selling which was mostly of a compulsory character, that is to say, for the account of parties who were unable to respond to brokers' calls for increased margins against highly speculative holdings. Texas Oil, Mexican Petroleum, Pan-American Petroleum, Sinclair Oil, Royal Dutch, and a few exotic "specialties" were particularly conspicuous in the sudden *deroute*. The most startling performance was witnessed on the curb, where brokers and patrons had been in a frenzy of excitement for some days over spectacular doings in various oil and mining stocks of more or less reputable standing. Sinclair Gulf, representing a subsidiary of the Sinclair Oil Co., fell to the tune of twenty-one points, that is, from 63 to 42, and then shot up again to 61. Leading railroad and steel issues were not importantly affected by the sudden heavy liquidation. They did not decline more than a half or a full point.

The conservatives had their triumph while the scare was at its height. They reminded their auditors that money was getting tight, the call rate showing an advance to 6 per cent, and that the inflationistic movement had crossed the danger point some weeks ago. They also put stress upon the April report of the U. S. Steel Corporation, which disclosed another notable contraction in unfilled orders—one of 629,887 tons—as of the final day of the month, thus reducing the aggregate to 4,800,685 tons, as compared with 6,684,268 on January 31. The cold, statistical crowd felt somewhat puzzled, though, when Steel common, after receding from 100½ to 99¼, quickly rallied to 99¾, or to a level implying a noteworthy gain over the low notch (96½) touched after the recent omission of the extra quarterly \$1.25. The relative firmness of the stock's quotation seemed still more paradoxical because of the failure of the latest attempt to stabilize prices of steel products. Chairman E. H. Gary's remarks on the prevailing state of affairs, though characteristically reassuring, made it quite clear to every intelligent student that producers are now faced by an open market. He added, incidentally, that, the popular idea to the contrary notwithstanding, there always had been an open market in the steel industry.

About the time forced liquidation had exhausted itself, the quotation of Studebaker common was swiftly raised from 77½ to 83½, or to the best price since 1917, when 110½ was reached. In 1915, sales were made at 195. The low record in 1918 was 33½. The dividend rate remains at \$4 per annum, but it is fair to surmise that a \$6 to \$7 rate is confidently looked for at a not distant date. In conformity with usual practice, brokers profess satisfaction with latest developments. They emphasize the desirability of just such "healthy" reactions from time to time. Many of them voice the belief that the end of the peace boom is not yet in sight. It is recalled

that the great bull market of 1916, though sharply interrupted three or four times, did not really terminate until November. Traders of the fatalistic turn of mind harped upon the fact that the great panic of 1909 eventuated on May 9.

With reference to railroad shares, it is now assumed that the financial difficulties of the Railroad Administration will properly be adjusted during the extra session of Congress and that the bankers will thereby be relieved of recurrent pressure and anxiety. The growing urgency of a satisfactory solution of the problem is brought home to every careful observer by the estimated deficit of approximately \$450,000,000 in income. According to reliable information, furnished by Dow, Jones & Co., there has been a decided shifting of holdings of New York, N. H. & Hartford stock during 1918. The Adams Express Co. has reduced its possessions from 24,730 to 14,730 shares; the American Express Co., from 20,324 to 625; the Mutual Life Insurance Co., from 35,640 to 30,640. The holdings of the New York Central and of the Pennsylvania Railroad Companies remain intact, still being 15,456 and 48,125, respectively. Those of some brokerage houses and private individuals have been considerably increased. It cannot be questioned that many capitalistic owners are highly doubtful regarding the future of the New Haven stock. They do not expect a very material recovery in the quotation (now 29½) nor an early resumption of dividend payments. The last statement of the company showed less than 2 per cent earned on the \$157,117,000 stock outstanding.

Missouri Pacific common established a new top record for 1919 the other day—32½. This compares with a minimum of 20 in 1918. The bulge coincided with a rise from 44¼ to 52 in the quotation of Texas & Pacific, whose stock and second mortgage income 5s are largely owned by the M. P. The uproarious scramble for T. & P. was again the outcome of alluring gossip about the company's oil lands. The subsequent relapse of two or three points appeared somewhat accentuated by the exchange of compliments between George and Frank Gould concerning disappearance of inherited wealth and some other things more or less interesting. At the present time, the Goulds have rather negligible influence upon the active management of the Missouri Pacific, and there's no likelihood that they might regain their former ascendancy. The powers of Wall Street always have been bitterly opposed to the Goulds, and without their co-operation, financially, success cannot be obtained in the transportation or any other leading industry. According to latest computations, the Missouri Pacific is earning about 6 per cent on its \$82,839,500 common stock, after deduction of the fixed 5 per cent on the \$71,800,000 preferred. So it would appear as though anticipations of disbursements on both classes of shares might reasonably be looked for after the return of the system to its owners.

The May report of the Department of Agriculture places the probable winter wheat yield at almost 900,000,000

of 1916, bushels—absolute maximum. If the spring wheat results are about 85 per cent of normal, the grand total of wheat production will be at least 1,250,000,000 bushels. Other agricultural estimates are also highly encouraging. So there's strong reason for hoping that we should be able to fill the pressing needs of Europe without putting burdensome restrictions upon American consumers.

The Victory Loan has been oversubscribed handsomely, judging by latest estimates. It affords fresh proof of the immense economic power of the United States and its financial ability to be the most potent factor in the rebuilding of Europe.

Finance in St. Louis

Local financial brokers continue doing a creditable amount of business on the Stock Exchange as well as in their private offices. There's a swelling demand, both for investment and speculative issues, and it is not improbable that by and by daily records of trading may approach the maximum results of the five years immediately prior to the war. Speculative funds are largely diverted to low-priced shares. Particularly active, lately, were Hydraulic-Press Brick common and preferred, quoted at 6.37½ and 42, respectively. There were many transfers at or around these figures. Sixty shares of Ely-Walker first preferred were disposed of at 104; twenty-five Certain-teed common, at 50.25 to 50.50; twenty Candy common, at 73.75, and over one hundred Wagner Electric, at the previous price of 150. Five shares of Mercantile Trust brought 342. United Railways 4s are not much in demand. The latest sale was made at 51. The St. Louis Federal Reserve District made an excellent record as concerns Victory Loan subscriptions. The results testified convincingly to prosperous conditions in the territory included in the district.

Latest Quotations:

	Bid.	Asked.
Boatmen's Bank	117½	118½
Mechanics-Am. National	320	
Nat. Bank of Commerce	138½	140
St. Louis Union Trust	320	
United Railways com.	2	
do pfd.	11	11½
do 4s	51	51½
Scruggs 1st pfd.	80	
do 2d pfd.	75	81
Fulton Iron com.	48	
Kinloch L. D. Tel. stock		140
K. C. Home Tel. 5s (\$500)	89	
Certain-teed com	45	
Ely & Walker com.	141	
Brown Shoe com.	89½	91
do pfd	100	
Hydraulic P. B. com.	7¼	7½
do pfd	38½	40
Granite-Bimetallic	26¼	30
Hamilton-Brown		150
Ind. Brew. 1st pfd.	10½	
do 6s	49½	
National Candy com.	77	77½
do 1st pfd.	105	
do 2d pfd.		100
Wagner Electric	149	150

Answers to Inquiries.

READER, Albuquerque, N. M.—The Shattuck-Arizona Copper Co. is an important producer of both copper and lead. In addition, it produces very appreciable quantities of gold and silver. The properties controlled are close to those of the Calumet & Arizona, which has a smelting contract with the Shattuck. The available ore reserves seem to give assurance of profitable operations for years to come, fifteen years at least. The stock is quoted at 13½ at this moment, after a decline to 10 re-

cently. Holders still receive 25 cents quarterly. The stock was up to 40¼ about three years ago. You would not be indiscreet if you bought at current price for a long-range speculation.

OBSERVER, St. Louis.—Maxwell Motor common sold as high as 99 in 1916. In the following year it slumped to 19½, after passing of the dividend, which had been established at a 10 per cent rate. The present quotation is 43¼. It anticipates more pronounced recovery in the motor business. The probability is that the stock will go considerably higher before January 1. Such reaction as may be witnessed in the interim is not likely to be really severe. The minimum might be 34 or 35 for a few days. In such case, you shouldn't hesitate to add to your holdings.

E. W. H., Twin Falls, Idaho.—Chicago, M. & St. Paul preferred will doubtless be moved up as soon as Congress gets busy on the restoration programme. You should buy another certificate in case of a break to 65. Ruling price is 69½. It indicates a gain of only six and a half points over the low record set in 1917. While recent earnings have been disappointing, it should be remembered that the company owns a fine system, serving territories of virtually unlimited riches and potentialities. The common stock, too, should prove an interesting and profitable speculation after commencement of the forward movement in the railroad group.

INQUIRER, Montclair, N. J.—(1) Dome Mines has been a poor speculation in the past six months, despite the greedy demand for mining issues in Wall Street. The present price of 14½ may be regarded as fairly correct measurement, pending definite news from the Porcupine locality respecting promising developments. One of the officials stated lately that all declarations made in the last report will be made good, that conditions look favorable, and that labor is growing more plentiful. If you can afford to be patient, selling at a loss would be inadvisable.

M. R. H., LaCrosse, Wis.—American Bosch Magneto, quoted at 87, is an attractive purchase for a long pull. It owns all the property and business of the former German-owned Bosch Magneto Co., which had been seized by the Government. The principal products are magnetos, starting and lighting systems and battery ignition systems, used with gas engines on tractors, motors, motor boats and airplanes. It also makes spark plugs, spark coils, cable terminals, and switches. The dividend is \$6 per annum. The estimated earnings amount to about \$15 per annum on each share of stock.

Coming Shows

The Thyrsus Dramatic Society of Washington University will present J. M. Barrie's "The Admirable Crichton" at the Shubert-Jefferson theatre on Friday evening, May 16. Two members of last year's cast, playing "The Clod," will have leading parts—Morris Carnovsky in the title role and Julia Jonah as Tweeny. Lady Mary will be played by the 1919 Dandelion Queen, Miss Casey Spear. Production will be under the able direction of Mr. Joseph Solari; seats may be obtained at the box office or through the Thyrsus business manager at Washington University.

Mme. Catherine Breshkovsky, "Babushka" or "the little grandmother of the Russian

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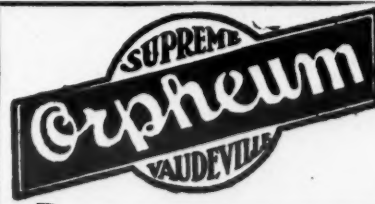
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SHUBERT-JEFFERSON, Fri., May 16, 8:15 P. M. Seats 50c and \$1.00
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revolution" will lecture in St. Louis on Sunday and Monday evenings, May 15 and 16, at the Sheldon Memorial on conditions in Russia today. The title of her lecture, which she delivers in English, is "Reclaiming Russia." She tells how her country is ruined and desolated and shows how America and other nations can aid in the restoration. She makes a special appeal for funds to aid the 4,000,000 little Russians orphaned by the war; they are homeless and almost friendless, and if they are properly educated will become a powerful factor in building up a free, happy and democratic Russia, while, if uncared for, those who survive will poison the civic life of Russia and all Europe, and become a menace to the world's welfare. Mme. Breshkovsky lectured in America fifteen years ago. Since then she has spent one year in solitary confinement and eight years in a

Siberian prison camp; in fact, thirty-five of her seventy-five years have been spent in prison mines and camps. All her life she has been fighting for Russian freedom and surely is qualified to speak on the subject.

Mme. Breshkovsky is accompanied by Dr. Edward H. Egbert, formerly chief surgeon of the Red Cross detachment in Russia. As head surgeon during the first two years of the war he came to know the Russian well, and has written a book on Russian political conditions, "New Russia and World Peace." At each lecture he will supplement Mme. Breshkovsky's statements with an account of conditions as he found them.

When passing behind a street car look out for the car approaching from the opposite direction.

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